



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Howard County Council Passes Legislation to Strengthen County's Environmental Efforts**

*Ellicott City, MD (December 11, 2019)* – The Howard County Council took meaningful steps towards improving the County's environmental conservation and sustainability efforts by passing CB62-2019, CB63-2019, and CB64-2019 on December 2, 2019. These landmark bills, which take effect on February 5, 2020, are a continuation of the Council's efforts to promote sustainability.

[CB62-2019](#) updates the County's Forest Conservation Act, which addresses deforestation during the land development process. It improves requirements to retain forested areas for new development, restricts use of fees-in-lieu, ensures that the County is compliant with State regulations, and raises the reforestation obligations on developers.

[CB63-2019](#) protects Scenic Roads and their unique character by requiring a minimum 100-foot continuous vegetated buffer between a scenic road and major subdivisions located in the Planned Service Area. The bill also requires that road improvements preserve and enhance the scenic nature of the road.

[CB64-2019](#) requires a five-cent fee for single-use plastic bags that are up to 2.25 millimeters thick. The intention of this legislation is to encourage consumers to use reusable bags, thereby reducing the environmental impact of disposable plastics. Part of the revenue from this fee will be used to create environmental educational programs for the public.

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